

No. 3

**SUBJECT:** General Report on the Italian Colony  
of Benadir. BUREAU OF TRADE RELATIONS

BUREAU OF TRADE RELATIONS  
RECEIVED  
APR 12 1910  
DEPT. OF STATE.

Every 7th Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

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## THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

## WASHINGTON.

SIR:

1 Report, in duplicate.

Charles K. Moore

No. 47.



AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Aden, Arabia, March 27th, 1912.

**SUBJECT:** Italians to Establish Political  
Residency at or near Ululla.

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THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

Mr.  
A. 2 File  
Apr 22 1912

SIR:

I have the honor to report that a movement is on foot by the Italian Government to establish a Political Residency in or nearby Ululla on the coast of Italian Somaliland. Ululla is splendidly situated on an isthmus at the northernmost extremity of Italian Somaliland and by virtue of its favorable position may be developed into a dangerous rival to Aden. It is on a more direct line to India than Aden, it is claimed. Large sums of money are to be expended in the improvement of the harbor and city. These expenditures, however, it is said, are contingent upon a speedy conclusion of the Turco-Italian war.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
*Wallace J. G.*  
American Consul.

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**AMERICAN CONSULATE,**  
Mombasa, British East Africa,  
November 9, 1916.



**SUBJECT:**

Disturbances in Italian Somaliland.

**THE HONORABLE**

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE,**

**WASHINGTON.**

**SIR:**

I have the honor to report that during the past few months many depredations have been committed along the Juba River on the northern frontier and even into the territory of British East Africa by the Somali tribes of Italian Somaliland. Many of the native tribes of this Protectorate have suffered losses of cattle and even lives have been sacrificed and villages destroyed.

To protect the interests of the natives concerned, the Government of the Protectorate have already dispatched several companies of the King's African Rifles to the affected district, and it is rumored here that as soon as the campaign in German East Africa is finished, they purpose sending several thousand troops of the K. A. Rs. to the frontier and also to British Somaliland on the Red Sea to conduct a vigorous offensive campaign against these turbulent tribes.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*John F. Smith*  
Consul.

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Office of Economic Adviser  
FEB 9 1927  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FEB 11 1927  
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865 B.C.C.  
FEB 11 1927

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MAR 1 1927

DEVELOPMENT OF ITALIAN SOMALILAND

From: Harold D. Finley American Consul  
Naples, Italy. Date of preparation: January 11, 1927.  
Date of mailing: January 13, 1927.

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The Governor of Italian Somaliland, the Honorable De Vecchi, has recently published in the periodical "Gerarchia", the following data concerning Italian Somaliland and its developments:

About

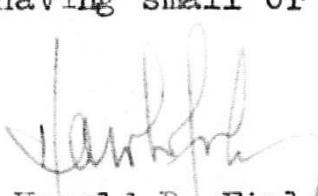
About 270,000 square miles are controlled by Italy in Italian Somaliland. This territory has a coast line of 1,400 miles and a land boundary of 1,300 miles. The country is populated throughout by a strong and intelligent people and is, for the most part, given over to sheep and cattle raising.

Military activities for the effective conquest of the country are proceeding rapidly. The conquered peoples freely offer their services to the Government for the completion of the work of conquest. There remains but a small part of central Somaliland, inhabited by the so-called "Migiurtini" yet to be subdued.

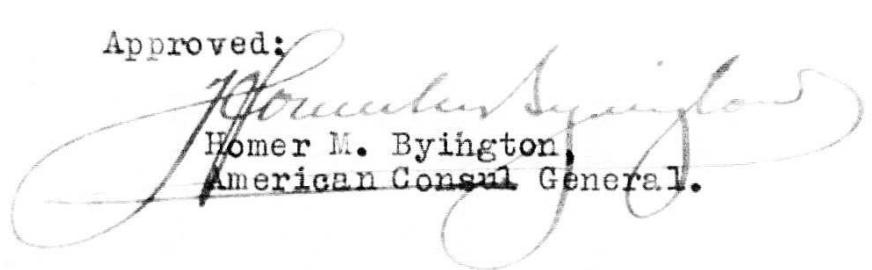
As regards peaceful activities, the greatest work is being done by the Duke of the Abruzzi, who is working indefatigably to bring to perfection his project. In the zone of Merca Genale, another project is on foot. A few years ago, but a few hundred acres of very poor land were under cultivation in this district. Now 300 Italians scattered over 75 tracts of land and aided by 8,000 blacks are cultivating over 17,000 acres irrigated by the water from the Uebi Scebeli. This zone will in time be quadrupled in size. In 1925 this zone produced raw materials valued at Lire 8,000,000; in 1926, 20,000,000 and it is hoped by 1929 to have it produce 90,000,000. This taken together with the results obtained and to be obtained by the Duke of the Abruzzi and with the other resources of the country will probably bring the value of the annual production of Somaliland to several hundreds of millions of lire annually in the near future.

Next year the largest cathedral in East Africa, which the Government is building at Mogadiscio, will be finished. Within the next three years, this city and its vicinity will have increased its railway connections from 9 to 75 miles, its roads from 940 to 2500 miles and will begin the extension of its port.

Somaliland, according to the Governor, offers a sure success to colonists having small or medium amounts of capital.

  
Harold D. Finley,  
American Consul.

Approved:

  
Homer M. Byington,  
American Consul General.

File No. 852.  
HDF.J

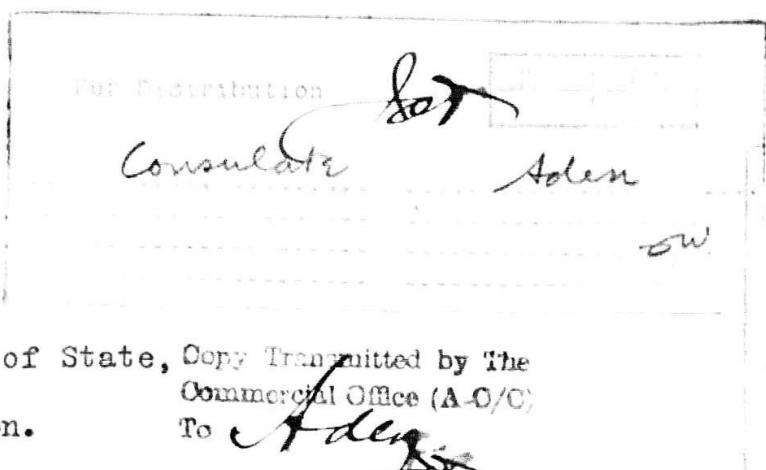
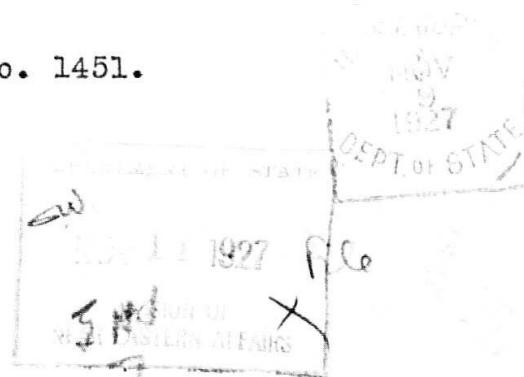


EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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ROME, October 28, 1927.

No. 1451.



The Honorable

The Secretary of State, Copy Transmitted by The  
Commercial Office (A-C/C)  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the official Stefani Agency communicates that Osman Mahmud, the former Sultan of the Mijertins in Italian Somaliland, has finally surrendered unconditionally after a resistance of three years to the Italian authorities. The Sultan had been a refugee in British Somaliland since his defeat last spring and the peaceable return of himself and his followers to Italian territory marks the termination of native opposition to the colonial administration. The Department will recall that the Sultanate of Obbia was occupied in October 1925 when the Sultan Ali Jusuf surrendered and that the Territory of Nogal, which is between the Mijertins and Obbia and where the "Mad Mullah" once lived, has also been subdued. It is understood

that

that ex-Sultan Osman Mahmud will shortly be transported by steamer from Bender Cassim to Mogadiscio, the capital of the colony, where the ex-Sultan Ali Jusuf has resided since his surrender.

The newspapers refer to the pacification of Italian Somaliland as a fascist achievement. It is pointed out that, although the powers have recognized Italian "protection" over the Sultanates of the Mijertins and Obbia for about forty years, the conditions were such that during this time the exercise of this protection was in practice impossible. In view of the fact that Italy is bound by treaty to preserve order over all of Northern Somaliland, there was an ever present risk that the necessity might arise for a foreign power to call to her attention her obligations in this respect to the great detriment of Italian prestige in Africa. The Fascist Government was principally concerned with avoiding this danger when it determined to assert its complete authority over the whole country.

The "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" says:

"When one realizes that for 30 years no Italian Government ever dared to face the problem of the Sultanates, even though it was evident to all that Italy was unable to fulfill in practice her obligations assumed by treaty, it is extraordinary that over so long a period there have been so few embarrassing incidents."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Henry P. Fletcher.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 884.154/5 FOR #2117

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED Jan. 31, 1929  
TO NAME 1-1127 0 0 0

884.154/5  
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REGARDING: report from Military Attaché on conditions in Eritrea  
and Italian Somaliland as seen by Colonel Nation, the British  
Military Attaché in Rome.

Central File: Decimal File 865B.00, Internal Affairs Of States, Somaliland, Political Affairs., March 21, 1910 - January 31, 1929. March 21, 1910 - January 31, 1929. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729382%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC>. Accessed 18 June 2025.